

Dear Parents

Science

In the third trimester, Chinese class starts a new science unit on Structures of Life in Plants. Your child will use a class sprouter to plant various kinds of seeds and examine the process of germination. Then they will grow seedlings hydroponically in a nutrient solution and observe them throughout their life cycle.

You can increase your child's understanding and interest by asking about your child's investigations at school and by providing more experiences about the process of germination at home. You might want to count the seeds found in various fruits and vegetables as you prepare dinner (Your child will learn that all plant parts that hold seeds are technically fruits). You could also grow plants from seeds, grow and eat edible sprouts, and look for the fruits and seeds of plants in your neighborhood.

Please do the following Home/School activities (see below). These activities will provide an opportunity for your whole family to look more closely at the structures of life around you.

Assignment 1 (Due: Wednesday, April 29th 2015)

種子^{タネ}の^タ来^リ源^{ゲン} Origin of Seeds

Where there are plants, there are seeds. Take a family walk around the block or to a park. Look for seeds. Weeds are famous for producing lots of seeds – that’s one reason why they are so successful.

Make a seed collection. Stick a few seeds in the spaces on this sheet with a drop of glue or a bit of tape. If you know the names of the plant where the seed came from, write it in the space above the seed.

Look at each seed and try to figure out how it might move from the parent plant to a new location to grow.

Look for seeds in fruits that you eat. Stick a fruit seed on this sheet also.

收^ウ集^{シユ}種子^{タネ} Seed Collection

Name of the seed 種子 ^{タネ} の ^ナ 名 ^ナ 稱 ^{ショウ}				
Seed Sample 種子 ^{タネ} の ^{サマ} 樣 ^{サマ} 品 ^{ヒン}				
Name of the seed 種子 ^{タネ} の ^ナ 名 ^ナ 稱 ^{ショウ}				
Seed Sample 種子 ^{タネ} の ^{サマ} 樣 ^{サマ} 品 ^{ヒン}				

Safety Note: Although most plants are harmless, some can cause allergic reactions. Use care to select your seeds. Don't eat anything you collect, and wash your hands after handling the seeds or plants.

Assignment 2 (Due: Wednesday, April 29th, 2015)

Take a neighborhood field trip. Look for a plant that has all of the parts listed below and answer the questions in the chart below. If you find a weed that is OK to dig or pull up, look at the roots, too.

請劃下你觀察的植物，再描寫它特別的地方
Is there anything else interesting about the plant? Draw a picture

• How tall is the plant? 植物有多高? _____ 公分或英寸
尺

• How tall is the stem? 植物的莖有多長? _____ 公分或英寸
尺

• How many seeds? 種子有幾顆? 一個 _____ 少許 _____ 很多 _____

• How big is the flower (like the size of what)? 花像什麼那麼大?

• Is there only one root or root hair? 根有一個主根 _____ 或是有很多根的
根鬚 _____

• How big are the leaves (like the size of what)? 葉子像什麼那麼大?

• Does plant grow along or with other plants? 植物是自己 _____ 或是跟其他的
植物長在一起? _____

Social Studies

Here are the main ideas we are learning this trimester in Chinese.

- North America has been home to many American Indians. California is home to many American Indians today.
- Most American Indian groups conveyed their history through myths and legends.
- They had and still have beliefs involving spirits.
- California Indians lived in different environments.
- They ate different foods, built different types of homes, and used unique types of clothing and tools.
- The U.S. Government set aside land for American Indians. These reservations make money. American Indian groups support the economy.

Family Activities

Talk Together

Discuss who your family's ancestors are. Where do they come from? What beliefs and customs in your family were passed down from these ancestors?

Learn Together

Help your child learn about Indian groups.

- Read about a nearby reservation or, if possible, visit one. How do you think living on a reservation would be similar and different from where you live now?

- Choose a city, state, or country that is very different from where you live now. Read about it. How would your lives changes if you moved there? Would you wear different clothes, have different jobs, eat different foods, or live in a different type of home.

Read Together

Weave Little Stars into My Sleep: Native American Lullabies, edited by Nel Philip. (Houghton Muifflin, ISBN 0-618-08856-3, 2001

Sarah Winnemucca, by Mary F. Morrow. (Steck Vaughun, ISBN 0-811-44095-8,1990 Biography

The California Coast, by Sera St. Antonie. (Mikweed Editions, ISBN 1-571-31631-0, 2001 Nonfiction

Assignment: California America Indian Power Point presentation

Your child will deliver a California American Indian Power Point presentation. The following are examples of California American Indian tribes that your child can choose from: Yuma, Cahuilla, Mojave, Gabrielino, Luiseno, Chumash, Costanoan, Yokuts, Pomo, Yuki, Hupa, Miwok, Washo, Maidu, Achumawi, Shasta and Yurok. Here are some of the suggested topics that your child may include in his or her research: Arts, legends, myths, houses, food, medicines, cultures, and/or children. Also, topics may include how to use the acorn or how to use animals for clothing, food or tools. Your child is welcome to include any other topics of his or her interests. For this assignment, some of the work is required to be completed at home and some of the work will be completed in the class.

Work to be completed at home

1. Students are encourage to check-out books on their California Indian groups from either the Meyerholz or local libraries. Students working on the same Californian Indian groups can help each other. However, each student is responsible for turning in an individual product. If your child did not find any printed research materials from the school library, please assist your child to conduct research on the topic that he or she chooses, either online or from books at the library. Students are welcome to share resources.

Due date: please bring the research materials on April 6th, 2015

2. Also, find pictures that are related to the topic he or she chooses and save it to Google Drive

Due date: April 20th, 2015

Work to be completed in classroom

1. Use research materials and synthesize understanding of the concepts/ideas using grade-level appropriate language. Students will write an informational writing piece about the California Indian group they've selected.
2. Learn how to create a presentation using Google Drive. Students will learn basic steps in the making of a Google Drive Presentation including creating a file, inserting pictures, formatting, selecting / changing slide design, utilizing slide transition, etc. Students are required to make a minimum of three slides.

What needs to be included in the project:

- Presentation with minimum of 3 slides
- A minute and half oral presentation

The slides are due on Friday, May 1st, 2015 (If your child did not have a chance to print his or her Power Point slide in our computer lab, please print out the slide at home and hand it in.)

California American Indians Google Drive presentation is scheduled between June 1st to June 5th, 2015. However, if your child is ready for the presentation prior to the schedule time, he or she could schedule his or her presentation date early.

[illegible]

Chinese Language Arts

Chinese characters:

In the third trimester, we will cover the following Chinese lessons

第七課、 Lesson 7 -Who Am I Like?

第九課、 Lesson 9 - Where are My Glasses?

第十課、 Lesson 10 - USA is my country

For the last trimester, we will cover MeiZhou Chinese Language Arts lesson 7, 9 and 10. However, your child will continue to review the Chinese characters for the 1st trimester and 2nd trimester.

In addition to lesson 7, 9 and 10, students will be tested on all other lessons from 1st and 2nd trimester. I will randomly select 20 phrases from trimester one and two.

[illegible]

Tests

Science: The test for “Structures of Life” is on April 30th, 2015.

Social Studies: The test for “California Indians Past and Present” is on May 29th, 2015

The Chinese Language Art Chinese character test:

The test for 1st and 2nd trimester Chinese characters is May 7th, 2015.

The test for 3rd trimester Chinese characters is on June 5th, 2015

[illegible]